

AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN LANDS IN PUTNAM
COUNTY, FLA., TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
FLORIDA FOR THE USE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA FOR
EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

JUNE 25, 1952.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. HART, from the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 556]

The Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, to whom was referred the bill (S. 556) authorizing the transfer of certain lands in Putnam County, Fla., to the State Board of Education of Florida for use of the University of Florida for educational purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The purpose of this bill is to authorize and direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey, on payment of \$300, to the State Board of Education of the State of Florida, for the use of the University of Florida, such portions of the Federal Welaka fish hatchery, Putnam County, Fla., aggregating approximately 55 acres, as he may determine to be in excess of the needs of the Department of the Interior. The University of Florida desires to use the land in connection with studies of conservation of natural resources, land utilization, forestry, biology, botany, and natural history.

At the present time, the University of Florida, under a long-term lease from the Department of Agriculture, is utilizing thousands of acres of land, immediately adjacent to the 55 acres of land above-mentioned, for botanical, biological, ichthyological, and other natural studies. The University of Florida desires to obtain title to these 55 acres of unimproved land in order that it may construct thereon some buildings which would enable it to better utilize the land leased from the Department of Agriculture. This land is several hundred miles distant from the University of Florida and some permanent buildings are needed in order to better conduct the various studies. The only

land in the vicinity on which the buildings could be constructed is included in the 55 acres.

The acreage involved in the bill was acquired by the Federal Government under authority of the Emergency Relief Act of April 8, 1935, for \$309. The bill provides that the Federal Government will be paid \$300 for the transfer of these lands to the State of Florida.

The 55 acres are now a part of the Welaka fish hatchery. A witness from the Department of the Interior testified before your committee that this acreage is not essential to the operation of the hatchery and that the Department has no objection to the enactment of this proposed legislation.

Provision is made in the bill that if the lands are not used for the educational purposes stated in the bill, or if at any time an attempt is made to transfer title or control to another, without the consent of the Secretary of the Interior, the lands shall revert to the United States.

A similar bill (H. R. 444) was introduced in the House by the Hon. Charles E. Bennett, of Florida.

Your committee knows of no opposition to the bill, and reports the bill favorably by unanimous vote.

